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MR. THACKERAY, MR. YATES,

AND

THE GARRICK CLUB.

THE

CORRESPONDENCE AND FACTS.

STATED BY

EDMUND YATES.

PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION.

1859.

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MR. THACKERAY, MR. YATES,

AND

THE GARRICK CLUB.

My reasons for desiring to lay before those who may be interested in the title of this pamphlet the exact circumstances of the question between me and Mr. Thackeray and the Garrick Club, as well as my reasons for stating that that question no longer awaits the decision of any legal court, will appear on the last page or two of these sheets. My first object is to set forth the exact history of the case. Its notoriety is not of my seeking.

On the 12th of June there was published in a weekly periodical, called "*Town Talk*," the following paper of my writing:

"LITERARY TALK.

"This week our subject is—

"MR. W. M. THACKERAY.

"HIS APPEARANCE.

"Mr. Thackeray is forty-six years old, though from the silvery whiteness of his hair he appears somewhat older. He is very tall, standing upwards of six feet two inches, and as he walks erect his height makes him conspicuous in every assembly. His face is bloodless, and not particularly expressive, but remarkable for the fracture of the bridge of the nose, the result of an accident in youth. He wears a small grey whisker, but otherwise is clean shaven. No one meeting him could fail to recognise in him a gentleman; his bearing is cold and uninviting, his style of conversation either openly cynical, or affectedly good-natured and benevolent; his *bonhomie* is forced, his wit biting, his pride easily touched—but his appearance is invariably that of the cool, *suave*, well-bred gentleman, who, whatever may be rankling within, suffers no surface display of his emotion.

"HIS CAREER.

"For many years Mr. Thackeray, though a prolific writer, and holding constant literary employment, was unknown by name to the great bulk of

the public. To *Fraser's Magazine* he was a regular contributor, and very shortly after the commencement of *Punch* he joined Mr. Mark Lemon's staff. In the *Punch* pages appeared many of his wisest, most thoughtful, and wittiest essays; 'Mr. Brown's Letters to his Nephew' on love, marriage, friendship, choice of a club, &c., contain an amount of worldly wisdom, which, independently of the amusement to be obtained from them, render them really valuable reading to young men beginning life. The *Book of Snobs*, equally perfect in its way, also originally appeared in *Punch*. Here, too were published his buffooneries, his *Ballads of Policeman X*, his *Jeames's Diary*, and some other scraps, the mere form of which consisted in outrages on orthography, and of which he is now deservedly ashamed. It was with the publication of the third or fourth number of *Vanity Fair* that Mr. THACKERAY began to dawn upon the reading public as a great genius. This great work, which, with perhaps the exception of *The Newcomes*, is the most perfect literary dissection of the human heart, done with the cleverest and most unsparing hand, had been offered to and rejected by several of the first publishers in London. But the public saw and recognised its value; the great guns of literature, the *Quarterly* and the *Edinburgh*, boomed forth their praises, the light *tirailleurs* in the monthly and weekly press re-echoed the *feux-de-joie*, and the novelist's success was made. *Pendennis* followed, and was equally valued by the literary world, but scarcely so popular with the public. Then came *Esmond*, which fell almost still-born from the press; and then *The Newcomes*, perhaps the best of all. *The Virginians*, now publishing, though admirably written, lacks interest of plot, and is proportionately unsuccessful.

"HIS SUCCESS,

commencing with *Vanity Fair*, culminated with his '*Lectures on the English Humorists of the Eighteenth Century*,' which were attended by all the court and fashion of London. The prices were extravagant, the Lecturer's adulation of birth and position was extravagant, the success was extravagant. No one succeeds better than Mr. THACKERAY in cutting his coat according to his cloth: here he flattered the aristocracy, but when he crossed the Atlantic, GEORGE WASHINGTON became the idol of his worship, the 'Four Georges' the objects of his bitterest attacks. These last-named Lectures have been dead failures in England, though as literary compositions they are most excellent. Our own opinion is, that his success is on the wane; his writings never were understood or appreciated even by the middle classes; the aristocracy have been alienated by his American onslaught on their body, and the educated and refined are not sufficiently numerous to constitute an audience; moreover, there is a want of heart in all he writes, which is not to be balanced by the most brilliant sarcasm and the most perfect knowledge of the workings of the human heart."

Two days afterwards I received the following letter:—

"36, Onslow-square, S.W., June 14.

"SIR,—I have received two numbers of a little paper called '*Town Talk*,' containing notices respecting myself, of which, as I learn from the best authority, you are the writer.

"In the first article of 'Literary Talk' you think fit to publish an incorrect account of my private dealings with my publishers.

"In this week's number appears a so-called 'Sketch' containing a description of my manners, person, and conversation, and an account of my literary works, which of course you are at liberty to praise or condemn as a literary critic.

"But you state with regard to my conversation, that it is either 'frankly cynical or affectedly benevolent and good-natured;' and of my works (lectures) that in some I showed 'an extravagant adulation of rank and position,' which in other lectures ('as I know how to cut my coat according to my cloth') became the object of my bitterest attack.

"As I understand your phrases, you impute insincerity to me when I speak good-naturedly in private; assign dishonourable motives to me for sentiments which I have delivered in public, and charge me with advancing statements which I have never delivered at all.

"Had your remarks been written by a person unknown to me I should have noticed them no more than other calumnies; but as we have shaken hands more than once, and met hitherto on friendly terms (you may ask one of your employers, Mr. ——, of ——, whether I did not speak of you very lately in the most friendly manner), I am obliged to take notice of articles which I consider to be not offensive and unfriendly merely, but slanderous and untrue.

"We meet at a Club, where, before you were born I believe, I and other gentlemen have been in the habit of talking without any idea that our conversation would supply paragraphs for professional vendors of 'Literary Talk;' and I don't remember that out of that Club I have ever exchanged six words with you. Allow me to inform you that the talk which you have heard there is not intended for newspaper remark; and to beg—as I have a right to do—that you will refrain from printing comments upon my private conversations: that you will forego discussions, however blundering, upon my private affairs; and that you will henceforth please to consider any question of my personal truth and sincerity as quite out of the province of your criticism.

"W. M. THACKERAY.

"E. YATES, Esq."

I suppose I may assume it to be clear that this letter is intentionally arrogant and offensive. It impelled me to write in answer a letter in which I took the liberty of reminding Mr. THACKERAY of some past errors of his own—rather strong errors of a similar kind as to taste—not the result of the hasty occupation of an hour, but deliberately extending over a long space of time, persisted in from month to month, and marked by the most wanton, reckless, and aggravated personality. But on referring it to a friend of mine, whom I will hereafter name, I

was dissuaded from sending it; it was at once destroyed; and I acknowledged Mr. THACKERAY's letter in the following terms:

"June 15th, 1858.

"SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, referring to two articles of which I am the writer.

"You will excuse my pointing out to you that it is absurd to suppose me bound to accept your angry "understanding" of my "phrases." I do not accept it in the least: I altogether reject it.

"I cannot characterise your letter in any other terms than those in which you characterised the article which has given you so much offence. If your letter to me were not both "slanderous and untrue," I should readily have discussed its subject with you, and avowed my earnest and frank desire to set right anything I may have left wrong. Your letter being what it is, I have nothing to add to my present reply.

"EDMUND YATES."

I took it for granted that this matter lay wholly and solely between Mr. THACKERAY and myself, until I received formal notice in writing from Mr. THACKERAY that he had referred this correspondence to the Committee of the Garrick Club, of which we were both members, in the following letter:

"Mr. THACKERAY has this day forwarded a copy of the ensuing letter to the Committee of the Garrick Club, with the enclosures mentioned in the letter.

"36, Onslow-square, June 19, 1858.

"GENTLEMEN,—The accompanying letters have passed between me and Mr. EDMUND YATES, another member of the Garrick Club.

"Rather than have any further personal controversy with him I have thought it best to submit our correspondence to you, with a copy of the newspaper which has been the cause of our difference.

"I think I may fairly appeal to the Committee of the Garrick Club to decide whether the complaints I have against Mr. YATES are not well founded, and whether the practice of publishing such articles as that which I enclose will not be fatal to the comfort of the Club, and is not intolerable in a society of gentlemen.

"Your obedient servant,

"W. M. THACKERAY."

In the first surprise of this intelligence I addressed the Committee thus:—

"June 19, 1858.

"GENTLEMEN,—I have just heard from Mr. THACKERAY that he has thought proper to lay before you the details of a personal difference between us.

"This course has come before me utterly unexpectedly, and I there-

fore beg you to suspend your judgment until I have consulted my friends, and been able to prepare my own version of the matter for submission to you. "Your obedient servant,

"EDMUND YATES.

"To the Committee of the Garrick Club."

Under date of the same day I received this communication from the Secretary of the Club:

"Garrick Club, 19th June, 1858.

"SIR,—I have the honour by the direction of the Committee to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 19th June.

"I am further directed to inform you that a Special Meeting of the Committee is called for Saturday next, at half past three o'clock, to take the subject of Mr. THACKERAY's complaint into consideration.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"ALEXANDER DOLAND,

"E. H. YATES, Esq." "*Secretary.*

Thereupon I addressed the following to the Committee:

"June 23rd, '58.

"GENTLEMEN,—I have received an obliging intimation from the Secretary of the Club, that the Committee will assemble on Saturday next, for the purpose of taking into consideration a complaint made against me by Mr. THACKERAY.

"With the greatest respect I beg to submit that Mr. THACKERAY's grievance is not one to be submitted to the Committee. His grievance is a certain article written by me in a certain newspaper; that article makes no reference to the Club, refers to no conversation that took place there, violates no confidence reposed there, either in myself or any one else.

"This article may be in exceedingly bad taste, but I submit with great deference, and subject to the Committee's better judgment, that the Committee is not a Committee of taste. This article may be, most unintentionally, incorrect in details; but unless I had so far forgotten the honour and character of a gentleman as wilfully to distort truth, I still venture to submit that its inaccuracy is not a question for the Committee's collective decision.

"Mr. THACKERAY's course in laying this matter before the Committee I hold to be unprecedented. Unless I am mistaken, there are members of the Committee's own body who have been the subject of very strong remarks in print by fellow members of the Club, but who have no more thought of laying their personal injuries and resentments before a Committee of the Club, than before a Committee of the House of Commons.

"Once again, I take this position with the greatest respect. If the Committee think otherwise, then I readily submit myself to the correction of the Committee; and recognise as fully as the Committee can,

that Mr. THACKERAY lays the correspondence before them in the legitimate and customary way.*

"In this case, but not otherwise, I strongly entreat the attention of the Committee to the terms of Mr. THACKERAY's letter of the 14th inst.; and when the Committee have heard that letter read, I ask whether Mr. THACKERAY rendered it possible for me to express my regret for having given him offence?

"I am, Gentlemen,

"Your obedient servant,

"EDMUND YATES.

"To the Committee of the Garrick Club."

The Committee held a meeting, and sent me this favour:

"Garrick Club, 26th June, 1858.

"SIR,—I have the honour, by the direction of the Committee, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, and to make the following communication to you:—

"At a special meeting of the Committee, on Saturday, the 26th June, 1858, it was unanimously resolved:—

"'1st. That it is competent to the Committee to enter into Mr. THACKERAY'S complaints against Mr. YATES.

"'2nd. That it is the opinion of the Committee that Mr. THACKERAY'S complaints against Mr. YATES are well founded, and that the practice of publishing such articles, being reflections by one Member of the Club, against any other, will be fatal to the comfort of the Club, and is intolerable in a Society of Gentlemen.

"'3rd. That in the opinion of the Committee, Mr. YATES is bound to make an ample apology to Mr. THACKERAY, or to retire from the Club: and if Mr. YATES declines to apologise or retire, the Committee will consider it their duty to call a General Meeting of the Club to consider this subject.

"'4th. That copies of these resolutions be sent to Mr. THACKERAY and Mr. YATES.

"'Lastly. That this Special Meeting of the Committee do stand adjourned to Saturday, the 3rd of July.'

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your most obedient, very humble servant,

"ALEXANDER DOLAND.

"To W. M. THACKERAY, Esq., and to E. H. YATES, Esq."

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* I may mention here that there was a little vapouring gossip about the Garrick Club, as to my intending, through this phrase or some other, to abide by the Committee's verdict or the verdict of the General Meeting—I don't know which, and I believe no small talker knew which. The fact stands thus:—I appealed to the General Meeting from the Committee as an aggrieved person might appeal from a Vice-Chancellor to the Lord-Chancellor. Not righted, I appealed again as the same person might then appeal to the House of Lords. I did not wish to be discourteous and refuse to appear before either of the two Club Courts. That the General Meeting never considered me pledged to abide by their decision is made manifest in their own proceedings, by their "trusting that a most disagreeable duty might be spared them" through my not abiding by it.—(See p. 10.)

I replied—but I may observe that before I did so, Mr. THACKERAY, having had a fortnight to think of it, and while his own reference was still pending, *took occasion to refer to me in print* as "Young Grub-street"—in these terms:

"43, Doughty-street, W.C., July 1st, 1858.

"GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter of the 26th ultimo, making me acquainted with the Resolutions you passed on that day, in reference to 'Mr. THACKERAY'S complaints against Mr. YATES.'

"With all respect and deference, I beg to state to you that I will not retire from the Club, and that I cannot apologise to Mr. THACKERAY.

I would very gladly do the latter, if the terms of Mr. THACKERAY'S letter to me were less offensive, but I conceive that if I made an 'ample apology' to the writer of that communication, I should myself deserve that portion of it which you adopt in your second resolution, and should be 'intolerable in a society of gentlemen.' I therefore desire to appeal from your opinion to a General Meeting on the two questions:

"Firstly, whether the cause between Mr THACKERAY and myself is a case to be submitted to you at all.

"Secondly, whether if it be, Mr. THACKERAY has any right to claim an apology from one whom he has so very arrogantly and coarsely addressed.

"With great regret that I cannot defer to your decision, and with much esteem and consideration,

"I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

"Your obedient servant,

"EDMUND YATES.

"To the Committee, Garrick Club."

Upon this the Committee (I will assume lawfully, though I believe quite illegally) convened a General Meeting of the Garrick Club, to which I addressed the following note:

"GENTLEMEN,—You will this day have laid before you a correspondence between Mr. THACKERAY and myself, certain Resolutions of your Committee affecting me, and such few representations as I have thought it becoming to offer to your Committee in writing.

"I beg to assure you that although I consider Mr. THACKERAY to have placed it out of my power to apologise to him, I am perfectly willing to apologise to you for any unpleasant feeling that I may have awakened in the Club by the publication of the unfortunate article in question. I have no hesitation whatever in expressing to you (but not to Mr. THACKERAY) my sincere regret that I ever wrote it, and put you to the pain and inconvenience of having to take it into your consideration.

"Your obedient servant,

"EDMUND YATES."

Before this General Meeting the Committee laid the whole of the correspondence; but to it they proposed no course of action. Certain

members moved and seconded, and certain members opposed, the six following Resolutions. They were carried, as I am informed, by a majority of 70 to 46. (Strictly speaking, they were carried as an amendment to a resolution declaring that the Club had nothing to do with the subject at issue between Mr. THACKERAY and myself; but in the hope of simplifying these details, I make them as concise as possible.) I may observe that the greater part of the Committee attended this General Meeting, and that, with one exception, they voted for their own body.

"1st. That it was competent to the Committee to enter into Mr. THACKERAY'S complaints against Mr. YATES.

"2nd. That it is the opinion of this Meeting that Mr. THACKERAY'S complaints against Mr. YATES are well founded.

"3rd. That the practice of publishing such articles, being reflections by one member of the Club against any other, will be fatal to the comfort of the Club, and is intolerable in a Society of Gentlemen.

"4th. That this Meeting is at once prepared to support the Committee in any step they may consider necessary for the suppression of this objectionable practice.

"5th. That this Meeting trusts that a most disagreeable duty may be spared it by Mr. YATES making such ample apology to Mr. THACKERAY as may result in the withdrawal of all the unpleasant expressions used in reference to this matter.

"6th. That with this expression of opinion, the Meeting refers the whole question back to the Committee."

To the Secretary's favour enclosing these Resolutions I returned no answer. In pursuance of them the Committee erased my name from the list of members on the 20th July: of which I received notice from the Secretary. An interval of grace had been previously left for me to apologise to Mr. THACKERAY, but I did not apologise, and that was the result.

The first step I took upon this outlawry was to return my subscription for the present year, which the Secretary, with all formal civility and propriety, had returned to me. The Secretary acknowledged its receipt, and duly informed me that "he had put it in a place of safety," and that it "remained at my disposal;" in which state it still remains.

I next took Counsel's opinion on the right of the Committee so to erase my name and terminate my membership. The opinion being that they had no such right, and that I "had not been legally ejected from the Garrick Club," I resolved to try that question. I submit to the reader that it will be seen from my letters that throughout I had shown the greatest forbearance, courtesy, and consideration towards the Committee. They did not return the compliment very handsomely, for they would not even make the little preliminary legal admissions usually made in suits, the object of which is to try a right. They would not by their Attorney make the formal admission of a "trespass" having been committed upon me in my ejection from the Club. And that this is not common course, even among ordinary

suitors—not to say among gentlemen claiming to settle questions of honour—will appear from one of the opinions of my Counsel, Mr. HONEYMAN, of Paper-buildings, Temple, who writes, in an otherwise dry legal document (previous to these proceedings I had never seen him in my life), "I cannot help saying that I consider the course pursued by the Committee or their advisers in refusing to give any facilities for trying the legal question, or to furnish the names of the responsible parties, as exceedingly discreditable; but if such course should be proceeded in, I recommend Mr. YATES, before bringing his action, to present himself at the Club, and to insist on remaining there till removed."

Therefore, I went to the Club on two occasions. On the first, the Secretary denied my right to enter, at some point of the entrance steps which was not legally in the building. So I went again, with my Solicitor, and was satisfactorily trespassed upon, or so I was assured, and brought my action.

By the advice of Counsel, I brought the action against the Secretary. He had been selected and put forward by the Committee to commit the trespass; they had instructed the Secretary for the purpose; he is the paid agent or servant who always executes the Committee's directions; who in the administration of the affairs of the Club does what the Committee orders, and is directly responsible to them; of whom the Committee invariably act as the master. I had given him written notice that I wished to avoid any approach to disturbance or inconvenience, and that I would present myself at the Club at a certain time. At that time he received me there, accompanied by my Solicitor. On my saying I must enter, he replied good-humouredly, "I suppose this is what you want, Mr. YATES—will this do?" and laid his hand on my shoulder to prevent my going further. This was considered quite enough, and he became the nominal Defendant.

To this action so brought to try the right of the Committee to eject me from the Club because I had given Mr. THACKERAY offence, and to try that matter of right simply, at the very last moment, the Committee pleaded virtually that the whole property of the Club is absolutely vested in Trustees, the only persons responsible on its behalf to anybody for anything; that the Secretary is a name, and the Committee are a name; that nobody but the Trustees had legally incurred, or could legally incur, any responsibility arising out of what had been done to me.

The result of this quibble is, that I have no remedy but as against the Trustees, and no remedy even as against them, but through that channel which is known to every one as easy, expeditious, and inexpensive, under the name of the Court of Chancery. Referring the probable cost of this birthright to my Solicitor, he wrote me that in the event of my failing *it would probably not be more than* £200 or £300. That my "remedy" is in that Court and in no other, I state on legal authority, and not on my own. Indeed, I may state for myself that it was with great difficulty I could be made to believe the fact.

In reciting the foregoing documents, and impartially stating the facts associated with them, I have but one object: I wish to enable every gentleman to judge of this case for himself, and to form his own opinion of its merits.

I desire to present to every honourable and generous mind before which these pages may come, the inquiry whether I have or have not patiently endeavoured to try the question between the Garrick Club and myself upon its own just merits; and whether, while this has been my object, divested of any irritating or disagreeable accompaniment, the Committee—a body of gentlemen not to be questioned in their individual capacity—have taken refuge in little Old-Bailey resources usually unknown to gentlemen.

That I, a young man with the world before me, could possibly survive long in a tilting-match with a rich Club and a dozen or two of not poor individuals indifferently representing it, and very strongly representing themselves, I suppose to be as plain to my readers as to the Garrick Club Committee.

Everybody knows that a great deal of nonsense is every day talked at Clubs, and that a great deal of news is circulated in those sources of information which has not the least foundation. I will not weary the reader's patience, or affront his understanding, by a repetition of the absurdities circulated in the Garrick Club, of which I have been the theme, pending this difference. But I may venture to refer to one thing which has throughout been perfectly clear there. I have fallen at once into bad hands and good hands. My naturally intemperate character has been grievously fomented; but I have had the great advantage that my nurses have paid my costs. Now I declare, upon my honour, I have from the first received no assistance whatever from any friend whomsoever; and though I am happy to know that I have friends who would readily come to my aid in any honourable cause, I am scarcely less happy to know that they have a better understanding of this cause and of me than by any act, small or great—past, present, or future—to justify these dishonourable aspersions. I have stood entirely alone.

It has been perfectly well known at the same fountain-head, that I have all along been obstinately bent on going to law. If I were obstinately bent on going to law about anything, I should think myself obstinately bent on going to Bedlam; but as I am not the judge in the case, and defer it solely to the reader, I beg now to submit two letters for perusal. The friend to whom I formerly referred as my dissuader in reference to the answer I had drafted to send to Mr. THACKERAY'S first letter, is Mr. CHARLES DICKENS. Deferring to his advice, I allowed no temper or resentment to influence me in any of my communications with the Garrick Club Committee, and I uniformly sought to conciliate them as far as I independently could. Mr. DICKENS is the member of the Committee to whom I have referred as not voting with the rest in support of the body, and he afterwards resigned his seat as a member of the Committee on the ground that he considered their interference—this quite apart from the merits of the question—not to be justified.

In November last Mr. DICKENS, returning to town after an absence of some months, heard from me that the writ in my action was about

to be served. He expressed to me, I dare say for the fiftieth time, his conviction that the Garrick Club Committee had no right to interfere in the matter, but at the same time reiterated his recommendation that it should be accommodated without legal proceedings and without public scandal. Upon this, two letters passed between him and Mr. THACKERAY. I have asked Mr. DICKENS for these letters, and his reply has been, "As the receiver of my letter did not respect the confidence in which it addressed him, there can be none left for you to violate. I send you what I wrote to THACKERAY, and what he wrote to me, and you are at perfect liberty to print the two. I am, of course, your authority for doing so."

"Tavistock House, Tavistock-square, London, W.C.
"Wednesday, 24th November, 1858.

"MY DEAR THACKERAY,—Without a word of prelude, I wish this note to revert to a subject on which I said six words to you at the Athenæum when I last saw you.

"Coming home from my country work, I find Mr. EDWIN JAMES's opinion taken on the painful question of the Garrick and Mr. EDMUND YATES. I find it strong on the illegality of the Garrick proceeding. Not to complicate this note or give it a formal appearance, I forbear from copying the opinion; but I have asked to see it, and I have it, and I want to make no secret from you of a word of it.

"I find Mr. EDWIN JAMES retained on the one side; I hear and read of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL being retained on the other. Let me, in this state of things, ask you a plain question.

"Can any conference be held between me, as representing Mr. YATES, and an appointed friend of yours, as representing you, with the hope and purpose of some quiet accommodation of this deplorable matter, which will satisfy the feelings of all concerned?

"It is right that, in putting this to you, I should tell you that Mr. YATES, when you first wrote to him, brought your letter to me. He had recently done me a manly service I can never forget, in some private distress of mine (generally within your knowledge), and he naturally thought of me as his friend in an emergency. I told him that his article was not to be defended; but I confirmed him in his opinion that it was not reasonably possible for him to set right what was amiss, on the receipt of a letter couched in the very strong terms you had employed. When you appealed to the Garrick Committee and they called their General Meeting, I said at that meeting that you and I had been on good terms for many years, and that I was very sorry to find myself opposed to you; but that I was clear that the Committee had nothing on earth to do with it, and that in the strength of my conviction I should go against them.

"If this mediation that I have suggested can take place, I shall be heartily glad to do my best in it—and God knows in no hostile spirit towards any one, least of all to you. If it cannot take place, the thing is at least no worse than it was; and you will burn this letter, and I will burn your answer.

"Yours faithfully,
"CHARLES DICKENS.

"W. M. THACKERAY, Esq."

36, Onslow-square, 26th November, 1858.

"DEAR DICKENS,—I grieve to gather from your letter that you were Mr. YATES's adviser in the dispute between me and him. His letter was the cause of my appeal to the Garrick Club for protection from insults against which I had no other remedy.

"I placed my grievance before the Committee of the Club as the only place where I have been accustomed to meet Mr. YATES. They gave their opinion of his conduct and of the reparation which lay in his power. Not satisfied with their sentence, Mr. YATES called for a General Meeting; and, the meeting which he had called having declared against him, he declines the jurisdiction which he had asked for, and says he will have recourse to lawyers.

"You say that Mr. EDWIN JAMES is strongly of opinion that the conduct of the Club is illegal. On this point I can give no sort of judgment: nor can I conceive that the Club will be frightened, by the opinion of any lawyer, out of their own sense of the justice and honour which ought to obtain among gentlemen.

"Ever since I submitted my case to the Club, I have had, and can have, no part in the dispute. It is for them to judge if any reconcilement is possible with your friend. I subjoin the copy of a letter which I wrote to the Committee, and refer you to them for the issue.

"Yours, &c.,

"W. M. THACKERAY.

"C. DICKENS, Esq."

(*Enclosed in the foregoing.*)

"Onslow-square, Nov. 28, 1858.

"GENTLEMEN,—I have this day received a communication from Mr. CHARLES DICKENS, relative to the dispute which has been so long pending, in which he says:—

"'Can any conference be held between me as representing Mr. YATES, and any appointed friend of yours as representing you, in the hope and purpose of some quiet accommodation of this deplorable matter, which will satisfy the feelings of all parties?'

"I have written to Mr. DICKES to say, that, since the commencement of this business, I have placed myself entirely in the hands of the Committee of the Garrick, and am still as ever prepared to abide by any decision at which they may arrive on the subject. I conceive I cannot, if I would, make the dispute once more personal, or remove it out of the Court to which I submitted it for arbitration.

"If you can devise any peaceful means for ending it, no one will be better pleased than

"Your obliged faithful servant,

"W. M. THACKERAY.

"The Committee of the Garrick Club."

I am almost ashamed that I should seem to recognise the necessity of adding—but I add it towards the cure of Committee madness—that I held no communication with Mr. DICKENS of any kind on the subject of the article in "*Town Talk*," or on the subject of the paper itself, or

anything belonging to "*Town Talk*" or appearing in it, or not appearing in it, until I took to him my published article, Mr. THACKERAY's intemperate letter and my intended intemperate answer, and asked his advice.

I have nothing more to say in reference to the Garrick Club and its Committee. If the gentlemen (I have many friends among them) who form the Garrick Club choose to invest their Trustees with the shirking powers they have exercised towards me, and might exercise to-morrow towards any of them, I do not seek to comment on their judgment or their taste. If their Trustees, Sir HENRY WEBB, Mr. WALTER COULSON, distinguished at the bar, and Mr. DAVID ROBERTS, eminent in the Royal Academy and in Art, choose to be made three stalking-horses for a mean shuffle, I do not seek to comment on *their* judgment or *their* taste. Assuredly I have not the inclination, for I am certain that Sir HENRY WEBB is a thorough gentleman, and that Mr. COULSON and Mr. ROBERTS have earned the reputation and respect in which they are held.

As to the question that has been at issue between Mr. THACKERAY and myself, I also wish to leave my readers to form their own conclusions. They will judge for themselves what would have come to pass if Mr. THACKERAY had addressed me with any temper or generosity—if he had referred the case to any intelligent and dispassionate person—even if he had had the reasonable forbearance to leave it between himself and me. I ask no one to form this judgment on any suggestion or afterthought of mine, but to found it entirely on the grounds that I have here submitted for consideration.

THE END.

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